

6260, Southwest Parke Com Sch Corp

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The goal of Southwest Parke Community School Corporation (SWP) is to have teachers design and implement instructional strategies incorporating the use of technology that would cause every student to become involved in the daily lessons and projects within the classroom. Our second goal with this grant is to help all students improve their reading and listening skills as well as their writing skills across the curriculum. Both of these goals are based on School Improvement Plans within SWP. By reaching these goals, there will also be an increase in student achievement and ultimately in ISTEP scores. SWP teachers will also be able to more actively engage students in their learning by providing access to the tools they prefer to use to learn.

At all grade levels, it is important to provide more technology accessibility for all students to enhance our student performance along with providing a necessary tool for differentiated learning. At the high school, it will provide more access for online research and additional opportunities for students to use technology in more subjects. SWP would also like to use the technology for online dual-enrollment courses that are being offered for this school year. In addition, many teachers try to vary their teaching styles in order to meet a wide variety of learning needs. The addition of the Mac iLife software would consequently give the students the opportunity to learn in ways more productively to their unique minds. At the elementary and junior high levels, the Macbooks will be used as a mobile lab to aid in delivering Acuity tests and remediation. In addition, students in grades 4-8 will use them to research a subject, create a script, obtain photos related to the topic, and then combine them in a podcast.

Because this grant will immerse teachers and students in a technology-rich environment with unfamiliar hardware and software, the need for training will be urgent. Teacher commitment and sustained professional development will help to provide 21st Century classroom instruction and to improve student achievement across the curriculum.

SWP would like to partner with South Vermillion Community School Corporation (SVCSC) for our professional development. Due to our on-going partnership with SVCSC through the inACCESS grant, SWP feels this would be a great opportunity to extend this partnership beyond that project. Overall, this partnership will allow our teachers and staff to participate in sustained, on-going collaboration to ensure that the tools and techniques provided through this project continue to lead to increased academic achievement.